TURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION
ULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
CITY HALL, ROOM 1500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(213) 485-2433

FOR OFFICE USE:

COUNCIL FILE NO.: _____ MONUMENT NO. _____

NR _____ SCL _____ HABS/HAER _____ DATE UC _____

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

NOTE: PLEASE USE THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS WHEN PREPARING THIS FORM . IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED, FEEL FREE TO ADD AS MANY EXTRA SHEETS AS DESIRED.

IDENTIFICATION

1. NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT Little Country Church of Hollywood

2. STREET ADDRESS 1750 N. Argyle Street

   CITY Los Angeles STATE CA ZIP 90028 COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 13

3. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 5546-031-005 (ATTACH PARCEL MAP)

4. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT 10149

   BLOCK _____ LOT(S) 2 and4 ARB NO. _____

5. RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY _____

6. PRESENT OWNER Little County Church of Hollywood

   STREET ADDRESS P.O. Box 613

   CITY Hollywood STATE CA ZIP 90078 PHONE (213) 464-9194

   OWNERSHIP IS: PRIVATE x PUBLIC _____

7. PRESENT USE Church ORIGINAL USE Same

DESCRIPTION

8. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE American Classical Revival

9. BRIEFLY STATE THE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE.

Built in 1934 by members of the congregation from plans drawn by architect Paul Kingsbury, the Little Country Church of Hollywood is set in extensive gardens with specimen shrubs and trees and brick-enclosed flagstone walks. The two acre, steeply sloping site is located at the corner of Yucca and Argyle Streets in Hollywood. In plan the building is essentially rectangular, with an ell addition on the north Cladding is weatherboard. The double central doors are approached across a broad flagstone terrace and set into a Tuscan surround. The entablature is simple: a plain architrave and frieze surmounted by a molded cornice. Above the door a double row of molding runs across the facade, forming the base of the triangular pediment which has contrasting vertical siding and an oval bull's -eye window. The shingled pyramidal spire arises from a square belfry which has elaborated two-stage molding and small lantern louvers on the north and south. The south elevation has five large double-hung multi-paned windows; one contains multi-colored panes; all windows have louvered

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT Country Church of Hollywood

10. CONSTRUCTION DATE: FACTUAL 1934 ESTIMATED _____

11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER OR ENGINEER Paul Kingsbury

12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER Church congregation

13. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS 1991

14. CONDITION: EXCELLENT _____ GOOD x FAIR _____ DETERIORATED _____

NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE _____

15. ALTERATIONS Transoms above doorway

16. THREATS TO SITE: NONE KNOWN x PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT _____ ZONING _____

VANDALISM _____ PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT _____ OTHER _____

17. IS THE STRUCTURE: ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE x MOVED _____ UNKNOWN _____

SIGNIFICANCE

18. BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE. INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE.

The Country Church of Hollywood is on the site of the A.G. Bartlett estate. The Bartlett gardens were extensive and contained exotic shrubs and trees cultivated by Mr. Bartlett, an avid horticulturist. Many of these specimen plants remain on the site. In the early thirties the estate was subdivided and the imposing Mission Revival mansion and gatehouse demolished. Architect Paul Kingsbury drew up the plans for the church to seat about 300 persons. In April of 1934, the Los Angeles Times reported that "labor had been recruited from the congregation working in relays in the rôles of carpenter, plumber and painter." The church was built sound proof and ready for broadcasting. Its pastor, Dr. William Hogg was a Tennessee preacher who had been a chaplain in World War I. He came to Hollywood with his family in 1932 and began broadcasting church services on KFAC and KFVD. Hogg, known as Pastor Josiah Hopkins, made daily local broadcasts from the Country Church and national broadcasts Sunday mornings and evenings until his death in 1937. His wife Sarah continued to broadcast the programs until 1956. During the 1940s the church became an important

contd.

19. MAIN THEME OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE: ARCHITECTURE 1 ARTS & LEISURE _____

ECONOMIC/INDUSTRIAL _____ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT _____ GOVERNMENT _____

MILITARY _____ RELIGION 2 SOCIAL EDUCATION _____

20. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH DATES.)

See attached sheet

21. DATE FORM PREPARED July 14, 1992 PREPARER'S NAME Portia Lee

ORGANIZATION California Archives STREET ADDRESS 8013 Blackburn #7

CITY Los Angeles STATE Ca ZIP 90048 PHONE (213) 653-7466

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HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 4, 2002
To: David Judaken
From: Christy Johnson McAvoy
Jonathan Nettler
Callie Batts
RE: The Little Country Church of Hollywood

Sources of Information

To compile an understanding of the Little Country Church of Hollywood and its evolution as a site and building, Historic Resources Group consulted a wide range of historic and archival sources. Research material was collected from the following sources:

- Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety Permit Division
- University of California Los Angeles Library, Special Collections
- City of Los Angeles Public Library
- City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic-Cultural Monuments Listings and Cultural Affairs Commission
- Collections of Historic Resources Group and Christy Johnson McAvoy

Brief Background History

The Little Country Church of Hollywood was built in 1934 by Dr. William Hogg, who became known as Pastor Josiah Hopkins after moving to Hollywood from Tennessee in 1932. Hopkins first held religious services in a tent pitched on land he leased on Argyle Avenue, a site that would eventually become the Little Country Church. This land was part of the former A.G. Bartlett estate, a sprawling landscape of extensive gardens filled with exotic trees, shrubs, and flowers. In the early 1930s, the estate was subdivided and the existing Mission Revival style mansion and gatehouse demolished. The removal of the mansion made way for the eventual construction of the Little Country Church. In a brief written memoir, Pastor Hopkins' wife remembered the day when she and her husband found the site for their new church:

> My husband, Josiah Hopkins, and I drove up in front of this place one day, and said to me, "There's the spot, honey! This is where we must put the Little Country Church. It will be beautiful on the side of this hill, where the folks on Hollywood Boulevard can see its little steeple pointing Heavenward."

Hopkins retained architect Paul Kingsbury to design the church. A native of Austria, Kingsbury arrived in the United States in 1920 and entered the University of Pennsylvania. Known for his work in residential architecture in the Los Angeles area, Kingsbury also designed several public school buildings

in Monrovia and Arcadia as well as the Arcadia City Hall. For his task in designing the Little Country Church in Hollywood, Kingsbury chose to incorporate elements of the Classical and Colonial Revival architectural styles to create a simple structure reminiscent of the simple Greek Revival churches of the early nineteenth century.

Construction began on February 25, 1934 with a labor force made up almost entirely of volunteers drawn from Pastor Hopkins' congregation. An article in the *Los Angeles Times* remarked that "labor had been recruited from the congregation working in relays in the roles of carpenter, plumber, and painter during the various phases of construction." The Church was dedicated on April 15, 1934, with participation by famous composer Carrie Jacobs Bond and a telegram from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Upon its completion, the Little Country Church became the site of regular religious radio broadcasts. Built to be "sound-proof" and ready for national broadcasting, the Church provided a permanent home from which Pastor Hopkins could transmit his religious services. Pastor Hopkins is reputed to have become the nation's first religious broadcaster when KFAC radio began to carry his show in 1932. The construction of the Church allowed him to continue broadcasting while simultaneously building a stable congregation. Pastor Hopkins made daily local broadcasts from the Little Country Church and national broadcasts on Sunday mornings and evenings until his death in 1937. His wife, Sarah, continued to broadcast the services until 1956. During the 1940s, the Church became an important venue for country gospel music, and well-known performers often appeared during Sunday Services.

Architectural and Landscape Description

The Little Country Church of Hollywood sits amidst lush gardens at the corner of Yucca Street and Argyle Avenue in Hollywood. The two-acre site is steeply sloped with brick-enclosed flagstone walks leading up to the building. In plan, the Church is essentially rectangular, with an ell addition on the north elevation. The building is framed in wood and clad in clapboard siding. It is covered by a gable roof with the ridgeline running parallel to the building's rectangular plan. The primary façade is framed by broad Doric pilasters and capped by a vertically-sheathed tympanum, in the center of which is an ovular bulls-eye window. A molding distinguishes the pediment. At the peak of the gable toward the west end of the structure is a square tower capped by an elongated pyramidal spire clad in wood shingles. Fenestration of the side facades consists of wood frame, double-hung, twelve pane sash windows. The interior of the Church contains a stage where the altar would normally be. The seating capacity was approximately 300. The pulpit was composed of a wood veneer with intricate inlay work. The pews were hand-crafted from pine at the time of the Church's construction (the pulpit and pews are no longer extant). An unusual feature of the interior was the so-called "dug-out," a small place where Parson Hopkins retreated for prayer and meditation in the southeast corner of the Church.

The surrounding landscape is filled with various kinds of shrubs, trees, and other plants. According to historic records, the original landscape architect was A.P. Howard of the firm Howard and Smith from Montebello, California. Howard designed a landscaped ripe with great masses of "hollyhocks, larkspur, sweet Williams, zinnias, poppies, black-eyed Susans, irises, and daffodils." There has been no independent confirmation of whether any of these species still exist on the site. At the time of the Cultural Heritage Commission designation, Dr. Portia Lee (author of the nomination) determined that the site contained specimen palm, avocado, and eucalyptus trees.

Alterations and Additions

Very few alterations have been made to the Little Country Church of Hollywood. Building permits indicate that a one-story tool and storage room was added to the structure in 1954. This storage room measured 9'x12', was framed in wood, and had a concrete floor. Termite repairs were completed in August, 1961, and air conditioning platforms and ducts were installed in July, 1967.

Historical Designations and Criteria

A property may be designated as historic by national, state, and local authorities. In order for a building to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or as a locally significant property in the City of Los Angeles, it must meet one or more identified criteria of significance. The property must also retain sufficient architectural integrity to continue to evoke the sense of place and time with which it is historically associated. The Little Country Church of Hollywood has been formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register, thereby gaining automatic inclusion in the California Register. It is also designated as Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #567. An explanation of these designations follows.

National Register of Historic Places

The Little Country Church of Hollywood was formally determined eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places on August 1, 1997. It received an evaluation of 2S2, indicating that it was "determined eligible for separate listing through a consensus determination by a federal agency and the State Historic Preservation Officer."

The Little Country Church of Hollywood is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the advent of religious broadcasting. Criterion A encompasses historic resources that are "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The building has a high level of historic integrity because it retains its original location, design, materials, and workmanship. Very few alterations have been made to the original structure, and additions to the building have been very small or inconspicuously located.

The National Register of Historic Places is "an authoritative guide to be used by federal, state, and local governments, private groups, and citizens to identify the nation's cultural resources and to indicate what properties should be considered for protection from destruction or impairment." The National Register is administered by the National Park Service. However, the federal regulations explicitly provide that National Register listing of private property "does not prohibit under federal law or regulation any actions which may otherwise be taken by the property owner with respect to the property." Listing in the National Register assists in preservation of historic properties through: recognition that a property is of significance to the nation, the state, or the community; consideration in the planning for Federal or federally assisted projects; eligibility for Federal tax benefits; consideration in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit; and qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.

To be eligible for listing and/or listed in the National Register, a resource must possess significance in American history and culture, architecture, or archaeology. Listing in the National Register is primarily honorary and does not in and of itself provide protection of an historic resource. State and local laws and regulations may apply to properties listed in the National Register. For example, demolition or inappropriate alteration of National Register eligible structures may be subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

California Register of Historical Resources

By virtue of being determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the Little Country Church of Hollywood was automatically listed in the California Register of Historical Resources.

The California Register is an authoritative guide in California used by State and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the State's historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change.

The criteria for eligibility for listing in the California Register are based upon National Register criteria. The California Register consists of resources that are listed automatically and those that must be nominated through an application and public hearing process. The California Register automatically includes the following:

- California properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (Category 1 in the State Inventory of Historical Resources) and those formally Determined Eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Category 2 in the State Inventory).
- California Registered Historical Landmarks from No.0770 onward.
- Those California Points of Historical Interest that have been evaluated by the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and have been recommended to the State Historical Resources Commission for inclusion in the California Register.

Other resources which may be nominated for listing in the California Register include:

- Historical resources with a significance rating of Category 3 through 5 in the State Inventory. (Categories 3 and 4 refer to potential eligibility for the National Register, while Category 5 indicates a property with local significance.)
- Individual historical resources.
- Historical resources contributing to historic districts.
- Historical resources designated or listed as a local landmark.

City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument

The Little Country Church of Hollywood was designated a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument on October 2, 1992. It is Monument #567 and includes the building, its site improvements, and the landscape and walkways.

The Cultural Heritage Ordinance was adopted by the Los Angeles City Council in 1962 and amended in 1985 (sections 22.120 *et.* seq. of the Administrative Code). The Ordinance created a Cultural Heritage Commission and criteria for designating Historic-Cultural Monuments. The Commission is comprised of five citizens, appointed by the Mayor, who have exhibited a knowledge of Los Angeles' history, culture and architecture. Section 22.130 of the Ordinance states that a historical or cultural monument

> is any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon), building, or structure of particular historical or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state, or community is reflected or exemplified or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, state, or local history, or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

Each nomination is reviewed by the Commission, then the Arts, Health and Humanities Committee of the City Council and the City Council as a whole. Any of these bodies may reject or defer a nomination.

Once a property has been designated a Monument, the Cultural Heritage Commission and its staff review permits for alteration, relocation or demolition. The Commission has the authority to delay demolition of a Monument for up to 360 days. Locally designated cultural resources are presumed to be historically significant under the California Environmental Quality Act. Therefore the demolition and/or inappropriate alteration of Monuments requires environmental review.

Potential Character-Defining Features

The Little Country Church of Hollywood has been designated a local city monument and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These determinations are based on the property's historic significance and integrity. Contributing to the Church's significance and integrity are various character-defining features. Such features include elements of the exterior and interior of the Church and the surrounding site landscape. Potential character-defining features of the Little Country Church include the following:

- Surrounding gardens
- Steeply sloped site
- Flagstone walkways (need to confirm with further research)
- Rectangular plan of the original Church building
- Elements of the Classical and Colonial Revival architectural styles
- Gable roof
- Wood framing of the original Church
- Original wood clapboard siding
- Primary façade of the Church with the Doric pilasters, tympanum, and bulls-eye window
- Pediment with distinguishing molding
- Square tower
- Fenestration of the side facades (double-hung, twelve pane sash windows)

Next Steps and Recommendations

The following steps need to be taken to further the project:

- Landscape architect or historian to determine historic plant materials, if any
- Further analysis of the hardscape (flagstone, brick, concrete materials)
- Explore use of tax credits and easements as financial tools for development
- Obtain copies of historic photographs at UCLA Special Collections
- Determine if the client's proposed scope of work meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards
- Determine level of environmental review based on proposed project
- Internet search for memorabilia related to the Little Country Church

We look forward to meeting with you further on this project. Please call Bryan Fahrbach at (323) 469-2349 to arrange a meeting with you and Bill Roschen after September 24. Thank you.

cc: Bill Roschen

HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 23, 2003
To: David Judaken
c/o The Garden of Eden
7080 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 307
Hollywood, CA 90028
From: Christy Johnson McAvoy
Callie Batts
RE: Little Country Church of Hollywood

The following memo provides a description of the meeting between Historic Resources Group and Jay Oren from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs on January 21, 2003. Issues discussed included the historic significance of the landscape and hardscape, the proposed changes to the existing church building, new construction on the site, and documentation needed to support an application.

Landscape and Hardscape

1. Connection of the current landscape to the historic landscape of the Bartlett estate and the original church property has not been identified. There is a possibility that portions of the existing landscape date from either the Bartlett estate or the original construction of the church. More research must be done to determine the historic significance of the landscape or to document a lack of significance.
2. HRG does not believe that the existing hardscape is an original or a character-defining feature of the property. However, the Cultural Affairs Department will consider the hardscape historically significant unless proven otherwise. Thus, documentation must be provided to clarify the significance of the hardscape.
3. In order to ensure that the landscape and hardscape have been fully researched and documented, the Cultural Affairs Department will require the preparation of a Cultural Landscape Report to accompany the building permit application.

Proposed Changes to the Existing Church Building

1. Skylights
   Mr. Oren does not recommend the installation of skylights due to the removal of historic fabric and possible disruption of visual sight lines. As an alternative, Mr. Oren recommends the installation of interior artificial lighting attached to the wood trusses.

1728 Whitley Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028
(323) 469-2349 * fax (323) 469-0491 * e-mail: HRG@HistoricLA.com
http://www.HistoricLA.com

2. **Original interior wood paneling**
   Mr. Oren does not recommend painting directly on the wood paneling. The installation of drywall to encapsulate the original paneling might be a feasible option, but care must be taken to not damage or remove the paneling.
3. **Widened opening on the west facade**
   Mr. Oren does not recommend the widening of the existing opening on the west elevation. The amount of open access space gained by such a door does not seem to justify the disruption of original fabric. Alternatively, Mr. Oren suggests the installation of a new set of double doors in the east lobby wall to increase access to the main auditorium/reception area.
4. **Window replacement**
   Mr. Oren does not recommend complete window replacement. Original windows should be repaired and rehabilitated where possible.
5. **Kitchen remodeling**
   All proposed work to create a fully functioning kitchen was approved in concept by Mr. Oren. This work includes all equipment and the addition of the refrigeration closet on the east elevation of the building. The exterior of the refrigeration closet should be clad in wood.
6. **New bathrooms**
   Mr. Oren approved all proposed bathrooms in concept.

New Construction

1. New construction fronting Argyle Avenue was not well received by Mr. Oren. He suggested that the only feasible site for new construction was at the southwestern corner facing south. He also maintained that the CRA would be critical in this.
2. To properly assess the impacts of new construction, Mr. Oren requested documents that review the entire property as a whole and evaluate the impacts of phased construction (see below).

Additional Documentation

Mr. Oren suggested that the following documents might need to be prepared in order to fully document the property, create a thorough understanding of the historic significance of the site, and comply with local regulations and environmental review:

- Cultural Landscape Report, including a list of character-defining features for the church building.
- Environmental Impact Documents

Mr. Oren did not believe that previously prepared environmental documentation was sufficient for this project.

Valid Permits

1. Review of the Cultural Heritage Commission file revealed environmental documents for Susan Moore's project in draft form, including a proposed mitigated negative declaration numbered MND-98-0411-CUB(ZV)(CCR). The current status of these documents must be discussed with the City of Los Angeles Planning Department.
2. A determination report from the Los Angeles City Board of Zoning Appeals indicates that the zoning variance and the conditional use permit were granted effective September 11, 1999.
3. A permit dated May 24, 2002 for roof and floor joist repairs appears to still be valid.
4. The Cultural Heritage Commission file does not appear to contain Permit #00016-10000-03967 issued on May 17, 2000 approving the church building's change of use from a church to a theater/auditorium.

PORTIA LEE ■ CALIFORNIA ARCHIVES
3315 GRIFFITH PARK BOULEVARD, #303 ■ LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90027 ■ TELEPHONE: (323) 664-4203 FAX: (323) 664-4082

AREA SURVEYS
ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH
HISTORIC PROPERTY RESEARCH
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

February 14, 2004

Jay Oren
City Historic Preservation Officer
Cultural Heritage Commission
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Oren:

Re: Little Country Church of Hollywood
Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 567
Proposed Secretary of the Interior Renovation dated 7-4-2003

I have obtained copies of the proposed renovation plan of the Little Country Church and I would like to call to your attention certain aspects of the current renovation plans that, if carried out, could seriously impact the property's historic significance.

NORTH BUILDING

Alongside the rear north side of the church is an attached building, approximately 20 x 48 feet with gabled roof, raise-able side walls and weatherboard siding. From inside this building, occupants could pass through the doors or look through a large window into the sanctuary. The interior walls and ceiling are uncovered, exposing the structural wood framing. An architectural detail of note are the six movable wall sections on the north and south sides, hinged at the top so that these panels could be lifted up and latched to the exposed ceiling joists. This feature allowed most of the room to be opened up to the outside. These wall sections, designed in the style of "Akron doors," elements characteristic of vernacular rural church architecture, no longer appear operable, but have the original hinge hardware and Y-brackets intact. Akron doors made it possible to divide the central auditorium space for Sunday school purposes, or allow the congregation access to outdoor space. This feature also allowed flexibility in use and the accommodation of varying numbers of occupants and occasional overflow crowds. Historic illustrations of the Little Country Church indicate that after opening these Akron doors, this space was similarly used for Sunday school classes, receptions and additional space for overflow crowds when the church had popular country religious music groups appearing during the broadcast services. The renovation plans submitted to the Commission indicate that this space is to be converted to a large kitchen. In accordance with Secretary of the Interior's Standards any additions to this room should be done so that they are entirely reversible.

Recommendations

1. Review the status of the existing environmental documents with the City of Los Angeles Planning Department.
2. Send a copy of the approved change of use permit #00016-10000-03967 to the Cultural Heritage Commission for inclusion in its file.
3. Determine the status of the 1998 lawsuit *Little Country Church of Hollywood and Robert Gardiner vs. Mollywood Properties, LLC and Susan Fine Moore*.
4. Resolve questions regarding the authenticity and significance of the landscape and hardscape. When these questions are resolved, prepare a landscape plan for the new project and try to incorporate the existing significant materials.
5. Modify the rehabilitation of the church building to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Information and Documentation

In the course of this consultation, HRG examined the following documents:

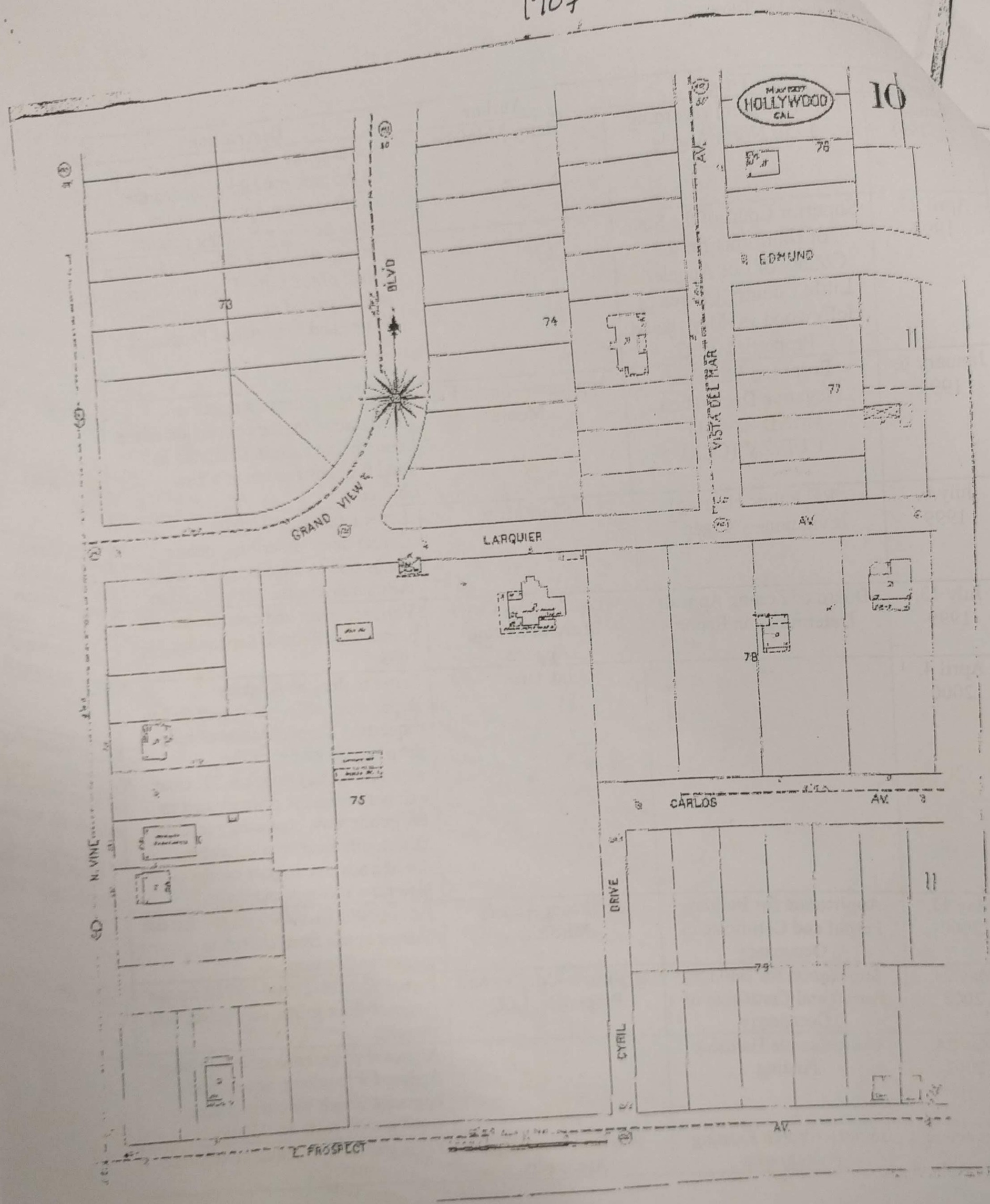
Date	Title	Author	Description
Unknown	The Real Josiah Hopkins	Aldoph Philip Gouthey	Biography of Hopkins and description of his religious activities.
Unknown	Little Country Church of Hollywood	---	Description of the congregation's efforts to build the church and install the radio station.
April 8, 1934	Little Country Church Edifice Almost Ready	---	*LA Times* article describing the construction of the church.
1943	Application to Alter, Repair, Move or Demolish	---	Building permit #13941 for an addition onto the church.
February 5, 1954	Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish	B.W. Wilson	Building permit #79380 for the addition of a tool storage room.
1955	---	Sanborn Fire Insurance Company	Sanborn map indicating location and construction of church.
August 15, 1961	Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish	Stanley Moore	Building permit #95309 for termite repairs.
July, 1967	Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish	C.G. Raab	Building permit #49610 for the installation of air conditioning platforms and ducts.
July 14, 1992	Historic-Cultural Monument Application	Portia Lee/California Archives	Application form to designate the church a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.
August 30, 1992	---	---	Church services program.
April 4, 1997	Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record	Christy J. McAvoy	Primary record form describing the history and architecture of the church.
September 12, 1997	---	C. Fred Cassity	Letter to Thomas Jeffers from the attorney representing the Little Country Church of Hollywood. The letter states opposition to a change of use for the church.

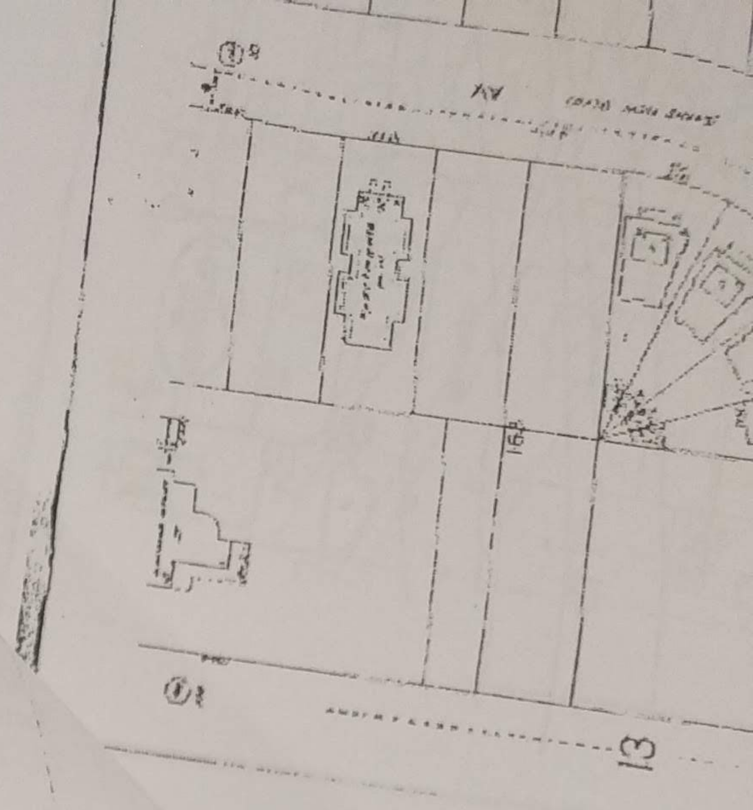
HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP
Little Country Church of Hollywood

Date	Title
January 29, 1998	Memorandum regarding 1750 North Argyle
April 27, 1998	Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles

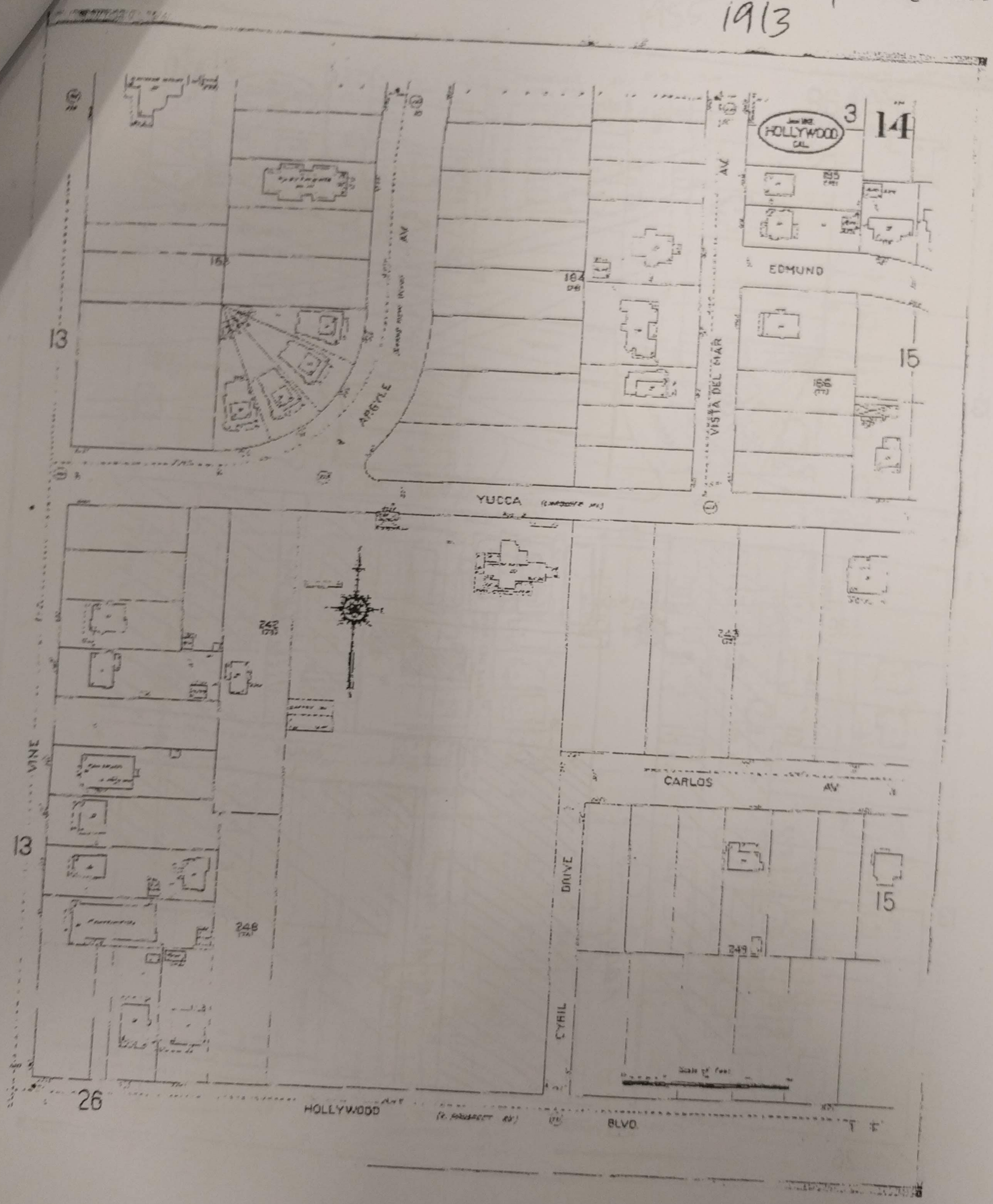
Date	Title	Author	Description
January 29, 1998	Memorandum regarding 1750 North Argyle	Barry Milofsky	Letter to Jay Oren stating that work on the property had exceeded the accepted clean-up and was not authorized by a building permit.
April 27, 1998	Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles: Little Country Church of Hollywood vs. Mollywood Properties, LLC	---	Lawsuit filed by Robert Gardiner on behalf of the Little Country Church of Hollywood against Susan Fine Moore and Mollywood Properties, LLC.
January 6, 1999	Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration #MND-98-0411-CUB(ZV)(CCR)	Applicant—Susan Fine Moore	Draft of a mitigated negative declaration for the conversion of the church into a theater/banquet hall and the construction of a new building..
July 6, 1999	RE:Public Hearing Invitation—"Urgent"	Shari Mehr	Letter to the Los Angeles Conservancy describing public opposition to the change in use of the church to a theater/restaurant.
July 13, 1999	Board of Zoning Appeals Determination Report	Los Angeles City Board of Zoning Appeals	Variance grant and conditional use permit are effective September 11, 1999.
April 4, 2000	---	Jay Oren	Letter to the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety requesting a modification to relieve the property owner of the requirement to provide a 20' clear exit path from the primary exit to the public way. According to Oren, this requirement would have a "severe adverse impact on the historic walkways and stairs."
May 17, 2000	Application for Building Permit and Certificate of Occupancy	Applicant—Barry Milofsky	Permit #00016-10000-03967 for the change of use from church to theater/auditorium.
May 24, 2002	Application for Building Permit and Certificate of Occupancy	Applicant—Mollywood Properties, LLC	Permit #02016-20000-09780 for the repair of floor joists, roof joists, and shingles.
May 24, 2002	Unreasonable Hardship Finding	---	Approval of unreasonable hardship finding for handicap accessible upgrades which would increase construction costs by 250%.
September 9, 2002	Country Church Existing Photographs	Roschen van Cleve Architects	Photographs of existing conditions.

Sanborn
1907





Sanborn, 1913



THE LITTLE COUNTRY CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD

by Sister Sarah Hopkins

One day, sitting in the California sunshine on a bench at Hollywood and Vine, while the street-car bells were clanging and numbers of cars were passing every minute, when he had seen his hopes and dreams fail, Josiah said God's Holy Spirit whispered in his heart, "Build a little country church here, where men and women can come back to the simple faith of their fathers and mothers, and where people can get back to neighboring with one another and singing in the old-time spirit the praises of God." And Josiah said he answered aloud, "A country church in Hollywood?" And the Lord seemed to answer, "In Hollywood!"

And, the Little Country Church of Hollywood started off without any money, but with an extra amount of faith!

It was first begun as a radio broadcast on January 2nd, 1933, over Station KFAC, from 8:00 to 8:30 A.M. daily.

One of the Goose Creek neighbors who worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad obtained a locomotive engine bell for us, and you can still hear that little bell ringing from the steeple of the little church.

Right in the heart of Hollywood, at the corner of Argyle and Yucca Streets, in the midst of a grove of beautiful trees, stood what was left of an old mansion. I'm sure it must have been one of the "show places" of Hollywood in earlier days. My husband, Josiah Hopkins, and I drove up in front of this place one day, and said to me, "There's the spot, honey! This is where we must put the Little Country Church. It will be beautiful on the side of this hill, where the folks on Hollywood Boulevard can see its little steeple pointing Heavenward."

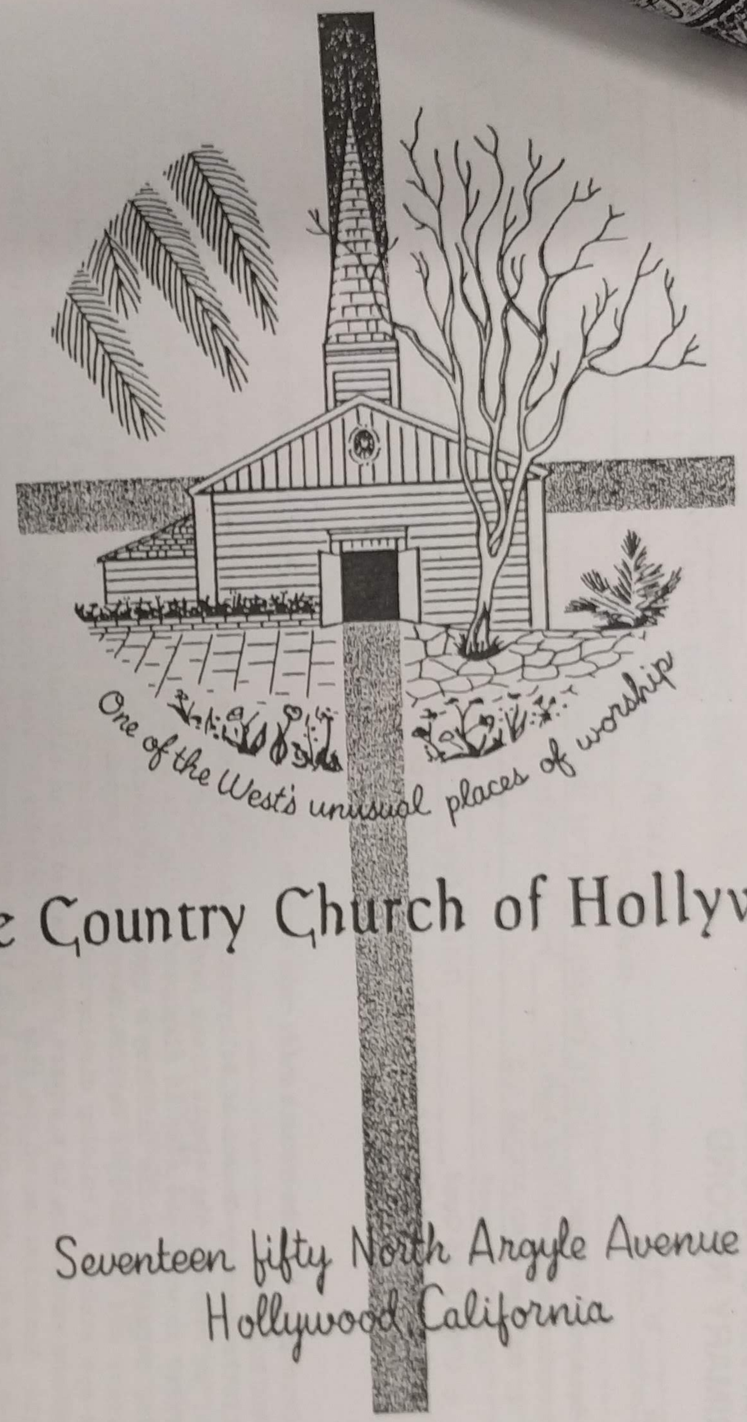
We got out of the car and climbed up the hill, and Josiah knelt down by one of the trees and thanked the Lord for giving us this site before we had even made any arrangement to buy it! In fact, it was after his death before the Lord made it possible through the neighbors to purchase it.

One of the most wonderful and glad surprises that ever came to us was in the shape of a telegram, and this telegram came from Washington, D.C., and was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It came on April 15th, 1934, when the little church was dedicated.

One of the "big days" was the first Vesper Service in the Hollywood Bowl, on September 30th, 1934. On that day, we gave our first coast-to-coast broadcast on the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Josiah had been in splendid health until the beginning of 1936. The Lord saw fit to take him Home on January 14th, 1937.

Many wonderful and sad days have come to us since that day, but the Lord has sustained us. He has never failed us, and never will. This Little Country Church of Hollywood is set upon this hilltop, in the heart of Hollywood, to stay until Jesus comes again!



The Country Church of Hollywood

Seventeen fifty North Argyle Avenue
Hollywood, California

Rec 9/25/92
bm

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 2S2

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 3

P1. Resource Identifier: Little Country Church of Hollywood
P2. Location: a. County Los Angeles and (Address and/or UTM Coordinates. Attach Location Map as required.)
b. Address 1750 ARGYLE AVE Zip 90028
City Hollywood
c. UTM: USGS Quad _____ (7.5'/15') Date _____; Zone _____, _____ mE/ _____ mN
d. Other Location Data (e.g., parcel #, legal description, directions to resources, additional UTMs, etc., when appropriate):

P3. Description Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries):
The Little Country Church of Hollywood sits amidst lush gardens on Argyle Avenue in Hollywood. In style, it recalls the simple Greek Revival churches of the early nineteenth century. The building is framed in wood and clad in clapboard siding. It is covered by a gabled roof with the ridgeline running parallel to the building's rectangular plan. The primary facade is framed by broad Doric pilasters and capped by a vertically-sheathed tympanum, in the center of which is an ovular bulls-eye window. A molding distinguishes the pediment. At the peak of the gable toward the west end of the structure is a square tower capped by an elongated pyramidal spire clad in wood shingle. Fenestration of the side facades consists of wood frame, double-hung, twelve pane sash windows. The building retains a high level of integrity in its design, use, and setting.

P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District

P6. Date Constructed/Age:
☐ Prehistoric ☒ Historic ☐ Both
1934 (F) *Southwest Builder & Contractor; Los Angeles Times*

P7. Owner and Address:
Not Applicable

P8. Recorded by:
Christy Johnson McAvoy
Historic Resources Group
1728 N. Whitley Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90028

P9. Date Recorded: 4/4/97

P10. Type of Survey:
☐ Intensive ☒ Other
☐ Reconnaissance

Describe: Section 106 Review for the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency

P11. Report Citation (Provide full citation or enter "none."): _____

Attachments: ☐ NONE ☐ Map Sheet ☐ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record
☐ District Record ☐ Linear Resource Record ☐ Other (List): _____

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Primary # _____
HRI# _____

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

B1. Resource Identifier: Little Country Church of Hollywood
B2. Historic Name:
B3. Common Name: Little Country Church of Hollywood
B4. Address: 1750 ARGYLE AVE
City: Hollywood County: Los Angeles Zip: 90028
B5. Zoning: B6. Threats: Nearby development
B7. Architectural Style: Colonial Revival
B8. Alterations and Date(s):
1943 Addition at rear corner of church
1954 9' x 12' tool storage room added
B9. Moved? ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____
B10. Related Features:

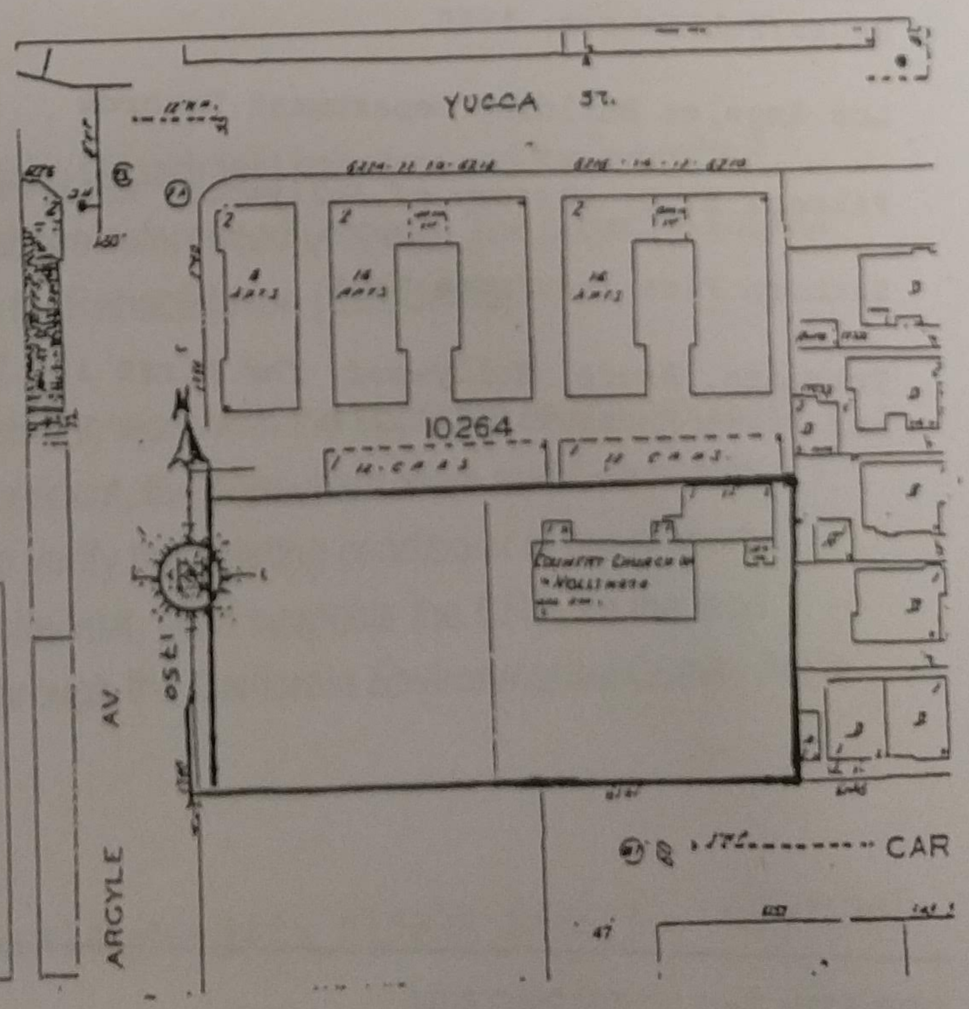
B11. Architect: Paul Kingsbury Builder:
B12. Historic Attributes (List attributes and codes): 16 Religious Building

B13. Significance: Theme Religious Broadcasting Area Los Angeles County
Period of Significance 1934-1937 Property Type Place of worship Applicable Criteria A
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope
Also address integrity.)

The Little Country Church of Hollywood is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the advent of religious broadcasting. The building retains high integrity in all of the seven areas which define historic integrity. The building retains its historic location, design, materials, and workmanship since it has undergone almost no alteration to the original structure, and additions to the building have been very small or inconspicuously located, as noted in item B8. It retains its historic associations, continuing to be used as a church by the descendants of its original founder. The building is set within extensive, heavily planted, and well-maintained gardens which have allowed it to retain its integrity of setting and feeling despite the changes in the surrounding cityscape.

The Little Country Church of Hollywood was constructed by Dr. William Hogg, who became known as Pastor Josiah Hopkins after moving to Hollywood from Tennessee in 1932. (continued)

B14. References:
Please see Continuation Sheet



B15. Evaluator: Christy J. McAvoy
Date of Evaluation: 4/4/97

(This space reserved for official comments)

Pastor Hopkins is reputed to have become the nation's first religious broadcaster when KFAC radio began to carry his show in 1932. It appears that the actual services from the Little Country Church were broadcast on Sundays.

By 1933 Pastor Hopkins's popularity was growing due to the exposure his radio program brought him. He began to hold services in a tent pitched on land he leased on Argyle Avenue, which was to become the site of the Little Country Church. Architect Paul Kingsbury, a native of Austria who also lived and practiced in Hollywood, was retained to design the current wood frame structure for a capacity of about 300. Kingsbury was educated at the University of Pennsylvania shortly after arriving in the United States in 1920 at the age of 26. After the early phase of his career in which he was mostly known for his work in domestic architecture, he moved his practice in 1940 to San Marino, where he designed several public schools and the Arcadia City Hall.

According to a listing in Southwest Builder and Contractor, the construction of the building was to be "handled by day labor under the supervision of the architect." An account of the building's progress in the Los Angeles Times two months later noted that the construction was being done "almost entirely (by) volunteer workers drafted from the organization's congregation." Its setting was described as "a two-acre park in the business center of Hollywood," which is largely intact today.

B14. REFERENCES

Arrowhead Magazine, June 1934. page 10-11.

"Little Country Church Edifice Almost Ready." *Los Angeles Times*, April 8, 1934. Part 1, p. 25.

"Plans Being Prepared." Southwest Builder and Contractor, February 23, 1934, p. 50.

Cini, Zelda and Bob Crane. *Hollywood, Land and Legend*. Westport, Conn.: Arlington House/Publishers, 1980.

Los Angeles Building Department Records

Palmer, E. O. *History of Hollywood*. Hollywood: Edwin O. Palmer, 1937.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Torrence, Bruce. *Hollywood: The First 100 Years*. Hollywood: Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and Fiske Enterprises, 1979.

September 17, 2003

HARDCOPY SENT VIA U.S. MAIL

Christy McAvoy, Principal

Historic Resources Group

1728 N. Whitley Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90028

christy@historicla.com

RE: Little Country Church, Historic-Cultural Monument #567

1750 North Argyle Avenue

PERMIT APPLICATION #03016-10000-08798

DECISION LETTER

Dear Ms. McAvoy:

The Design and Historic Preservation Staff of the Cultural Affairs Department has reviewed the submitted plans dated July 9, 2003 for the proposed alterations at the above-referenced property. The project is subject to the application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards).

On August 6, the Cultural Heritage Commission authorized staff to work with the applicant on the proposed project. On August 29, staff conducted a site visit with the applicant, the consultant team and Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) representative, Kipp Rudd, to verify the existing conditions of the property. Because of the project's current goals described during the site visit, Staff suspects the CRA, as the lead environmental agency, may determine that an Initial Study through the California Environmental Quality Act is warranted relative to intended uses of the property.

ROBIN TYNER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT revised 10/20

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 16, 2003
To: David Judaken
CC: Christy J. McAvoy
From: Robin Tyner
RE: Little County Church
1750 North Argyle Avenue
Los Angeles, California

Per our discussion of your current permit application for Little Country Church, I have reviewed all available historic documents, conducted a site visit and met with Laura Janssen and Christy J. McAvoy of HRG to identify pertinent issues regarding the historic landscape.

The Church sits on a natural plateau that was once part of the Bartlett estate. The slope of the plateau may contain some remnant plant species from the Bartlett era, which was planted as a screen for the estate home from the citrus orchards. Later terraced by the Church in the 1930s and 1940s.

Significant landscape features from the period of significance (1930s) include the five pointed star outside the Church entrance, the circulation paving pattern, planting bed forms, the use of broken concrete material, and the entrances off Argyle. The site is intact and should be evaluated in a landscape assessment for the historic record as well as to access the impacts from construction. The landscape assessment will include an inventory of existing conditions including the identification of significant vegetation, paving patterns and historic integrity. Treatment recommendations may be limited depending on future use of the property.

The current scope of work does not impact any part of the landscape or the paving patterns. A landscape assessment is not necessary for this permit application.

Sincerely,

Robin Tyner
Landscape Architect

10501 Kling Street
Toluca Lake, California 91602
818 761-6584

© JIM GRAHAM, PHOTOGRAPH

out of his dark broodings and almost bitter soliloquizing, came his dream of the Country Church.

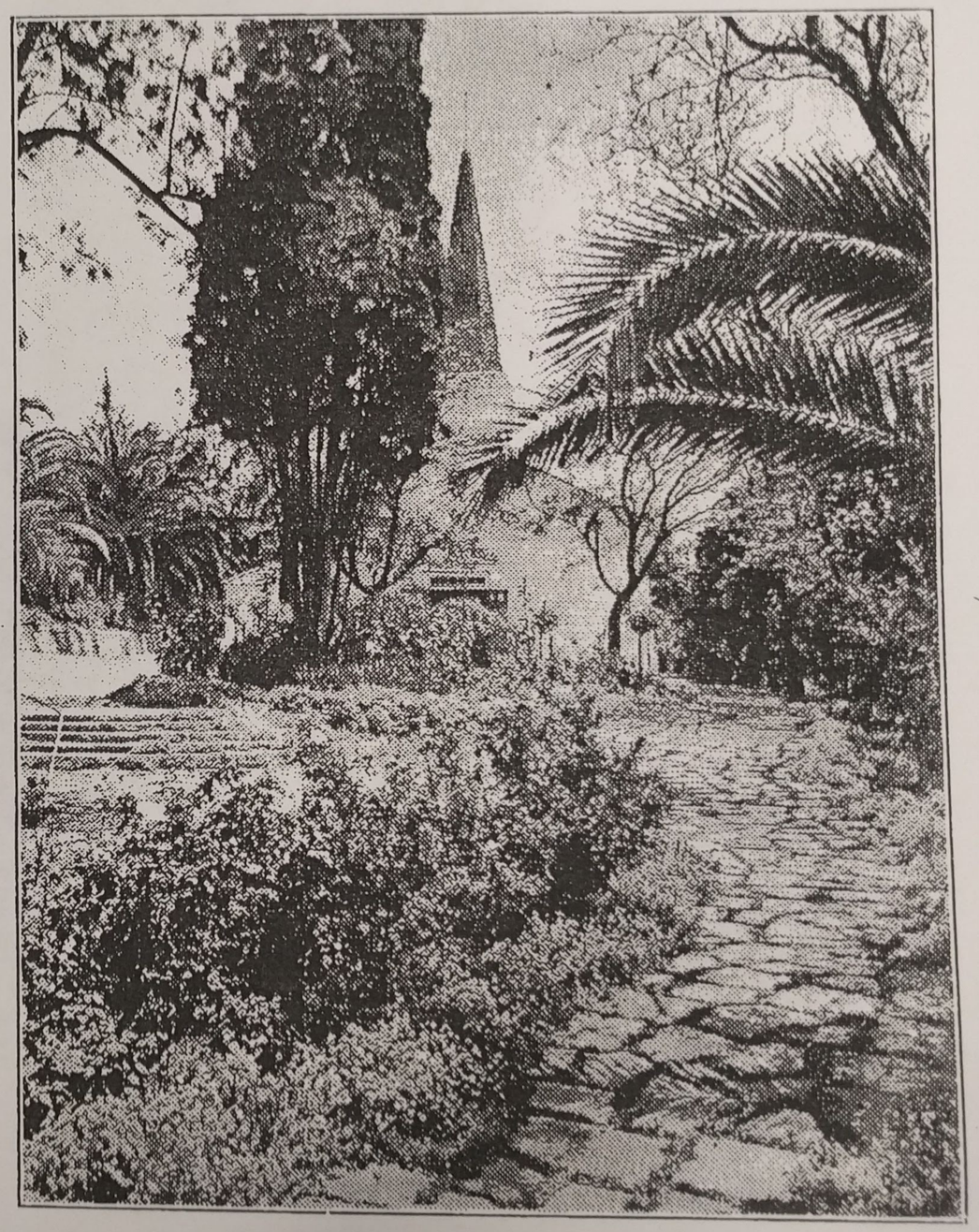
He harked all the way back to Ashland City, Tennessee, with its reality, and said to everybody, and yet to nobody, "We've lost that. So help me God, I'll rebuild it right here in Hollywood. In the midst of sham and shallowness and soullessness, I'll build reality!"

Came a friend—W. A. Barr, affectionately known to a host of admirers as "Billy." Billy caught Josiah's vision and backed him with sacrifice and devotion and, when the record is opened, it will disclose the fact that it was he who held up Josiah's hands as Aaron held up the hands of Moses. Later, thousands rallied with prayers and gifts and words of praise, but it was these two, together with Sarah, whose devotion never faltered, who blazed the trail.

Came the Country Church.
Came Parson Josiah Hopkins.

That the message of the Parson of Goose Creek *is* reality, ten thousand and ten thousand stand ready to testify. As the spire of "The Little White Church on the Hill" points to the stars, so the Parson's message points to the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." And when the redeemed sing their new song around the throne of God, and nations and tongues and kindreds and tribes and peoples pour out their praise in thunderous volume, like the sound of many waters, ten thousand and a thousand will call you, Josiah Hopkins, blessed.

Salutis, Josiah Hopkins.
Salutis, Sarah Hopkins.
Vive la Country Church!



THE COUNTRY CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD